

# Inspire

FALL 2016

STORIES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

## How a movie, dog and red carpet will help sick kids



*Movie screening at Mosaic Stadium*

Unquestionably, it was a day to remember. A fundraising idea nurtured by a local mom with a big heart, Andrea Hoffman, brought the community together to treat kids to a special event.

On Aug. 20, 2016 more than 1,100 spectators brought blankets and chairs onto Taylor Field at Mosaic Stadium to watch a locally-filmed movie A.R.C.H.I.E. Everyone was treated to popcorn and drinks. The fundraiser raised an incredible \$45,000 for Regina's pediatric program, through Hospitals of Regina Foundation (HRF).

The movie A.R.C.H.I.E. (Artificial Robotic Canine Hyper-Intelligence Experiment) is an enchanting tale about a young girl named Isabel, who makes friends with A.R.C.H.I.E. – a robotic dog who possesses many special abilities. The film explores the power of friendship and what it means to

belong—important messages for kids of all ages. When producers of the movie, Trilight Entertainment and Java Post heard Andrea's idea, they were happy to screen A.R.C.H.I.E. for the kids.

As part of the event, children living with health issues were treated to a red carpet experience before the movie. "It was wonderful to see the kids posing on the red carpet for the cameras, playing with the real A.R.C.H.I.E. (Cosmo) and carrying swagger bags full of goodies," says HRF's Vice President, Development Niti Bhotoia. "They were having so much fun. You couldn't help but smile."

"Between Trilight Entertainment Inc., Java Post and me, we wanted to create a fun event for all children. We really wanted to reach out to families who have a sick child that may not get out very often," says Hoffman.

"Those families were treated to the movie, along with snacks and hotdogs, and enjoyed a red carpet experience just like a Hollywood celebrity." Hoffman says she is grateful to her title sponsors, Dilawri Group of Companies, Knight Automotive and Trilight Entertainment, who helped provide this great opportunity for the community to have fun, rally around the kids and support HRF.

Sixty kids were hosted on the red carpet. Most importantly, the families loved the event. "It was a lot of fun and great for the kids," states Mike Thompson who attended. His daughter Ella, 9, adds, "It was really fun and I was really excited to get a balloon animal. But the best part was meeting A.R.C.H.I.E." Mike adds, "I like that the funds are staying local and helping the Hospitals of Regina Foundation. That is what's most important."



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# Helping patients through *challenging times*



*Toula Bannouvong*

For Toula Bannouvong, working as a nurse in the renal unit at the Regina General Hospital is a way to help patients undergoing dialysis and their families deal with an extremely difficult time in their lives.

“Imagine coming to the hospital every other day, getting hooked up to a machine for four hours, and doing that week after week,” she said. “It’s mentally and physically exhausting. Every day is hard for these patients and their families.”

With 40 stations and a plasma exchange, the unit sees an average of 100 patients per day in three treatment runs.

Because the unit is designed to provide specialized care for all patients in southern Saskatchewan, many people have to drive from smaller communities to get to the unit, even in adverse weather and poor road conditions.

“Not showing is not an option for these people; they need to have a treatment or they can get really sick,” she explained. “These patients spend a lot of time with us, so we really get to know them. We learn about their lives and families, and we share in their good days and bad days. In many ways, the unit feels like a family.”

A mother of four children aged 12 to 21, Bannouvong has been a licensed practical nurse (LPN) with the Regina Qu’Appelle

Health Region (RQHR) for 17 years. She considers nursing to be her calling.

“I don’t believe I could do anything else,” she said. “I look at nursing as a privilege and an honour to be there at a vulnerable time in a person’s life and to have their trust as you help them through a difficult time. It is an honour to share in, and to be part of, their success stories.”

Along with her LPN training and experience, Bannouvong has specialized training as an operating room technician.

She says she saw how crucial technology is to patient care. “From basic items to the most complex diagnostic equipment, we need continuing community support to help provide the care our patients deserve.”

Every day, Bannouvong sees first-hand how donations to Hospitals of Regina Foundation are helping patients, and she is grateful to the donors for showing they care.

“As a health care professional, I would tell people that getting sick is not a choice,” she said. “No one wants to get sick or come to the hospital. We need donations to continue to help patients get better. I believe that as nurses and health care professionals, we are always striving to provide exceptional care and save the lives of our patients. Donations to our hospitals allow us to provide the best possible care we can.”

# Giving to a cause that **HELPS** so many



*Phyllis Lamb*

For Phyllis Lamb, a history of donating to Hospitals of Regina Foundation (HRF) has let her touch the lives of the most people in her community that she possibly can.

“Sooner or later, we all need hospital care,” said Lamb, who originally hailed from Middle Lake, Saskatchewan before moving to Regina in 1953. “I don’t know of any other charitable organization that helps so many people. It covers all illnesses and diseases for all ages.”

Over the past 29 years, she has made a total of 59 donations to HRF, benefitting everything from patient comfort items to high-tech medical equipment in almost every area of medical care. “She is such a special person,” said Jakki Crowe, HRF’s manager of individual and legacy giving. “She’s one of our most committed donors and is so philanthropic in so many areas.”

Lamb’s husband Vern passed away in 1984. It was then that she first saw the

need for good medical equipment, including walkers and wheelchairs along with advanced diagnostic equipment. “You don’t really have a clue until you need it,” she explained.

However, it was in her years working on invoices and refund claims for Canada Customs that she saw how expensive pieces of hospital equipment can be.

Lamb made her first gift to the hospitals in 1986, one year before the Foundation was formed. Since that time she has donated generously to help fill the greatest needs in all three of Regina’s hospitals – Regina General, Pasqua and Wascana Rehabilitation Centre.

“Phyllis has always gifted to the area of greatest needs,” said Crowe. “This is so valuable because it makes a huge impact on helping us give our medical teams the equipment they need to provide the best patient care.”

Lamb is exceptionally well versed in the many ways to give to charity. Along with direct donations, she has included a gift in her will, her life insurance policy, and on the advice of her financial planner, she has just created a foundation to oversee her donations, recognizing that these donations can help provide tax exemptions.

After retiring 26 years ago, she became actively involved with the Regina Seniors Centre, especially in the singing and painting groups there, going to the Centre twice a week to paint. In fact, she has donated 13 of her paintings to the hospitals through the Hospital Art

Foundation. She has also been volunteering her time as a tutor for English as a Second Language students for 25 years. “In that time, I have had 17 learners,” said Lamb. “I still keep in touch with many of them.”

She partially credits her philanthropic beliefs to her mother. “She was very generous even though we didn’t have very much,” she said. Lamb continues to live modestly, choosing not to spend on material goods, although she says she has travelled extensively and never done

**“I don’t have any children, so I want to help the community. It’s nice to think you were able to do something good for other people.”**

*Phyllis Lamb*

without. “I did very well in my career,” she said humbly. “I don’t have any children, so I want to help the community. It’s nice to think you were able to do something good for other people.”

Lamb’s gifts have already touched thousands of patients. She has done so much for patients in Regina’s hospitals and she can’t be thanked enough.

# New lease on life with TAVI



*Dr. Jeff Booker in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at the Regina General Hospital*

Patients too fragile to undergo open-heart surgery will soon have a new option for life-saving cardiac care at the Regina General Hospital (RGH). Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) is a minimally-invasive procedure that allows people with no other options to live longer and healthier lives.

“It was always my hope to help develop this program here in Saskatchewan,” says Dr. Jeff Booker, an interventional

cardiologist and clinical program head of TAVI. “TAVI has an amazing future in helping us care for patients. It is a less invasive way of treating aortic stenosis in patients who would not survive traditional surgery.”

TAVI repairs the aortic valve without removing the old, damaged valve. Instead, doctors make a small incision in the femoral artery and place a replacement valve inside the existing valve.

“There are so many benefits to patients,” says Dr. Booker, a Saskatchewan-born doctor who specialized in internal medicine in Saskatoon and cardiology in Calgary, before accepting a fellowship with the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. “It can be done under conscious sedation with local anesthetic and freezing, so patients can be discharged the next day or shortly thereafter. We are seeing patients recover faster, with better outcomes.”



*Dr. Booker*

The TAVI program is a provincial initiative that will be based in the Mosaic Heart Centre at the Regina General Hospital. Dr. Booker, along with his Saskatoon-based colleague Dr. Paul Basran, is pioneering the program, which will initially allow up to 25 procedures per year. While TAVI is offered in other provinces, this is a first for Saskatchewan. A major challenge for the program right now, however, is funding the high cost valves.

According to Steven Klotz, manager of interventional cardiac services, a new value is extremely expensive. “The procedure is intended only for very high risk, inoperable patients,” he says. “It is the last and only option for these people.”

He expects high demand for TAVI, and hopes positive outcomes will influence the ability to offer more procedures. “Ideally, you would never have a waiting list,” he says.

In the past, patients needing the procedure have been sent out of province, so having it available in Saskatchewan will be a huge boon for patients here, according to Executive Director of the Critical Care and Cardiosciences Program Lori Garchinsk.

“Some people don’t want to go out of province because they are away from their family support, or may even be the support for an elderly spouse,” she explains. She says the TAVI program will complement the already strong cardiac program in Regina that has long been supported by Hospitals of Regina Foundation. “We are smaller than places like Switzerland or the U.S., but we are confident that our patients are going to receive excellent care.”

Dr. Booker says he is excited to see how TAVI will change patient care. “We are just scratching the surface. We are going to treat the sickest people and show how great it can be. This is a huge step forward in helping people here in Saskatchewan.”



*Cardiac Catheterization Lab*

The Mosaic Heart Centre at the Regina General Hospital offers leading edge cardiac care to all people in southern Saskatchewan.

Thanks to donors, HRF has pledged close to \$980,000 towards upgrades in the Mosaic Heart Centre this year, and will continue to invest in Regina’s cardiac program in 2017.

The Cardiac Catheterization Lab is used to diagnosis and treat heart disorders and other abnormalities including blockages and the insertion of stents. Operating rooms in the unit will soon offer minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI).

## Desire to give back *drives lottery winners*



*Don and Cyndy Findlay Photo by Don Healy, courtesy of the Regina Leader-Post*

"I am happy to support the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Home Lotteries because in the end, whether you win a prize or not, it is our hospitals that benefit from the funds that are raised," she explains. "We need to have top notch, leading health care services to ensure our loved ones receive the quality care they deserve. My mom and I have already purchased our tickets for the Fall Home Lottery."

Paul de Montigny of Regina and his wife, Denise, claimed a \$55,000 cash prize. Supporting the Home Lottery was a way to give back to a facility where they received excellent care.

"In 2013, my wife had some health issues. She felt her treatment at the Pasqua Hospital was very good," said Paul. She initially made a donation to the hospital directly. In subsequent years, we made the decision to buy tickets for the lotteries as well."

President and CEO Dino Sophocleous says that Saskatchewan's strength is rooted in the compassion and generosity of its people.

"For 29 years, our community has helped our hospitals by generously supporting our lotteries. Together, we will continue to make better lives."

Residents of Saskatchewan continue to open their hearts – and their pocketbooks – in support of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Home Lotteries. Since 1987, the lotteries have raised over \$34 million for Regina's three hospitals.

Each year the lotteries reach new heights. The 2016 Spring Home Lottery sold out faster than any other in the history of our lotteries. There were 2,005 prizes awarded and the 50/50 add-on reached \$726,255.

However, for many of our lottery winners, the ability to make lives better is what matters most.

Don and Cyndy Findlay of Regina are a prime example. The couple won the \$1.5 million grand prize showhome.

While their big win was certainly unexpected, their support of our Home Lotteries has never been left to chance.

"I have been buying tickets for many years because it is such a good cause," said Don. "The proceeds go to support the hospitals in our community, which we are all likely going to need."

Melanie Ranalli of Regina echoes those sentiments. She and her mother, Jeanette took home the 50/50 jackpot valued at \$363,127.50. Melanie is grateful to have won and considers it to be a life-changing moment for her and her family. That said, she has always recognized the importance of our lotteries and the positive impact they have on our community.

## Give back to health care through a gift of securities

Have you ever considered donating publicly traded securities (including, stocks, bonds and mutual funds) to Hospitals of Regina Foundation (HRF)? It is a smart and tax-effective alternative to donating cash. How you structure your charitable donations is just as important as the amount you give – both for HRF and for you.

Thanks to tax law changes in 2006, people who choose to donate appreciated securities directly from their brokerage account to a registered charity will eliminate capital gains tax on their investment.

You may also include a gift of securities designation in your will, leading to tax savings for your estate. Your contribution will help support family members, friends and neighbours who receive care at our hospitals.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, please contact HRF.

## Save the date

### Four Seasons Ball

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JUNE 3, 2017

Join us for Regina's most memorable charitable event – the inaugural Four Seasons Ball. Prepare for a magnificent evening of delicious food, entertainment from celebrated actor and comedian Martin Short, and dance-worthy live music. Let's bring together our community for one night, to support the children who need Regina's hospitals.



PROCEEDS SUPPORT REGINA'S PEDIATRICS PROGRAM

Tickets available January 2017.  
For more information or to reserve your tickets,  
call (306) 781-7500.



## Celebrating our community's giving spirit

The compassion and generosity of our community is an important part of the fabric of our province. Each year, this giving spirit is on display as individuals and organizations pull together to support a variety of fundraising efforts in southern Saskatchewan. They host golf tournaments, galas, walks, runs, special events or simply connect with friends, family and co-workers to make a difference. Their unwavering commitment continues to make better lives for everyone who needs Regina's hospitals. For that, we are deeply grateful.

\*Some events held in support of Hospitals of Regina Foundation between March and September 2016 are featured here.

Uncover the Cure: \$79,300  
CCU Walk/Run: \$22,868  
Who's Your Daddy: \$20,591  
Plywood Cup: over \$75,000  
O.S.C.A.R Charity Golf Classic: \$40,000  
Chickadee Golf Tournament: \$4,270  
ARCHIE for Pediatrics: \$45,000  
Sun Life Charity Golf Tournament: \$52,000  
Pipeline of Dreams Golf Tournament: \$61,490



Interested in hosting your own fundraiser? Contact us.

Please support our hospitals by donating to HRF today.



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